## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00502 121126Z ACTION OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 L-01 SP-02 EB-04 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 /040 W

-----127575 121203Z /13

R 121040Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 537

CONFIDENTIALTEL AVIV 502

LIMDIS

ALSO PASS TREASURY AND COMMERCE

STATE FOR ASST SEC MINK AND DEPT ASST SEC VELIOTES; TREASURY FOR ASST SEC BERGSTEN; COMMERCE FOR ASST SEC BARUCH

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: TECH IS

SUBJ: BIRDF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REF.: TEL AVIV 62

1. E/C COUNSELOR ON JANUARY 11 HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH LAVIE AND EITAN RAFF CONCERNING BIRDF. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER GOI IS CONVINCED THAT BLACKMAN WILL BE A GOOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAVIE ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY. HE ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF BLACKMAN'S ATTITUDE AND OPERATING METHODS EARLIER, BUT HE THOUGHT THESE HAD NOW BEEN RESOLVED.

2. RAFF AND LAVIE WERE BOTH UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT BLACKMAN WOULD BE HIRED AS A USG EMPLOYEE AND ASSIGNED TO ISRAEL IN A NON-DIPLOMATIC STATUS. E/C COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS BELIEVED THAT BLACKMAN SHOULD BE BIRDF EMPLOYEE SO THAT CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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TANGLED LINES OF AUTHORITY CAN BE AVOIDED. ISRAELIS WERE TOLD THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE ON TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT BLACKMAN WILL BE OFFERED. ISRAELIS SAID THEY FAVORED USG EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE IT AVOIDED HAVING TO DEFEND HIGH COST OF CONTRACT TO ISRAELI POLITICAL LEADERS AND ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION AND IT SOLVED US TAX PROBLEM(SIC).

3CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH RENEWED EMBASSY OFFER OF COMPLETE AND CLOSE COOPERATION TO ASSIST IN BIRDF SUCCESS AND PLEDGE BY ISRAELIS TO KEEP US FULLY INFORMED.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN UPDATE ON THE QUESTION OF BLACKMAN'S EMPLOYMENT. LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: EMPLOYMENT DATA, POSITION AUTHORIZATION, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 12 jan 1978 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV00502
Document Source: DOCUMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D780018-0285 Format: TEL

From: TEL AVIV Handling Restrictions:

Image Path: ISecure: 1

**Expiration:** 

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780170/aaaacheb.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 3042fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION OES

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 62

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 31 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3785520 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BIRDF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAGS: TECH, IS, (BLACKMAN, A WADE)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3042fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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